

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. (Previously Presented) A surge protector comprising a spark gap, which has mutually opposite electrodes, a trigger circuit for triggering the spark gap and a light source, which is connected to a protective device, at ground potential for generating a trigger light, which can be supplied to a reception unit of the trigger circuit by means of at least one optical waveguide, the spark gap and the trigger circuit being at a high-voltage potential,

wherein

the reception unit has at least one power semiconductor component, which can be moved over, by means of the trigger light, from an off position, in which a current flow via the power semiconductor component is interrupted, to an on position, in which a current flow via the power semiconductor component is made possible.

2. (Previously Presented) A surge protector according to claim 1,

wherein

the power semiconductor components are in the form of thyristors which are connected in opposition and can be triggered optically.

3. (Previously Presented) A surge protector according to claim 1,

wherein

the trigger circuit has a capacitive voltage divider, which has a capacitor which can be bridged by means of the power semiconductor components.

4. (Previously Presented) A surge protector according to claim 1,
wherein

the trigger circuit is connected to a trigger electrode, whose distance from a first electrode of the spark gap is less than the distance between the first electrode and a second electrode opposite it, it being possible for the electrical potential of the second electrode to be applied to the trigger electrode by means of the trigger circuit.

5. (**Currently Amended**) A surge protector according to claim ~~13~~,
wherein

the spark gap has at least two pairs of mutually opposite electrodes, which are arranged in a series circuit with respect to one another, the capacitor which can be bridged being connected in parallel with a pair of mutually opposite electrodes.

6. (**Currently Amended**) A surge protector according to claim 1,
wherein

the spark gap and the trigger circuit are arranged on a platform which is supported in an insulated manner by means of supports and is designed to bear components which are provided for the purpose of improving ~~the a~~ power transmission in an energy distribution system.

7. (Previously Presented) A surge protector comprising:

a spark gap comprising mutually opposite electrodes,

a trigger circuit for triggering the spark gap, and

a light source coupled with a protective device and being at ground potential for generating a trigger light, wherein the trigger light can be fed to a reception unit of the trigger circuit by at least one optical waveguide, wherein the spark gap and the trigger circuit are at a high-voltage potential, wherein the reception unit has at least one power semiconductor component which can be switched by the trigger light from an off position, in which a current flow via the power semiconductor component is interrupted, to an on position, in which a current flow via the power semiconductor component is made possible.

8. (Previously Presented) A surge protector according to claim 7, wherein the power semiconductor components are in the form of thyristors which are connected in opposition and can be triggered optically.

9. (Previously Presented) A surge protector according to claim 7, wherein the trigger circuit has a capacitive voltage divider, which has a capacitor which can be bridged by means of the power semiconductor components.

10. (Previously Presented) A surge protector according to claim 7, wherein the trigger circuit is connected to a trigger electrode, whose distance from a first electrode of the spark gap is less than the distance between the first electrode and a second electrode opposite it, it being possible for the electrical potential of the second electrode to be applied to the trigger electrode by means of the trigger circuit.

11. **(Currently Amended)** A surge protector according to claim ~~7~~9, wherein the spark gap has at least two pairs of mutually opposite electrodes, which are arranged in a series circuit with respect to one another, the capacitor which can be bridged being connected in parallel with a pair of mutually opposite electrodes.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A surge protector according to claim 7, wherein the spark gap and the trigger circuit are arranged on a platform which is supported in an insulated manner by means of supports and is designed to bear components which are provided for the purpose of improving ~~the~~a power transmission in an energy distribution system.

13. (Previously Presented) A surge protector comprising:
a spark gap comprising mutually opposite electrodes,
a trigger circuit for triggering the spark gap, and
a light source coupled with a protective device and being at ground potential for generating a trigger light, wherein the trigger light can be fed to a reception unit of the trigger circuit by at least one optical waveguide, wherein the spark gap and the trigger circuit are at a high-voltage potential, wherein the reception unit has at least one power semiconductor component which can be switched by the trigger light from an off position, in which a current flow via the power semiconductor component is interrupted, to an on position, in which a current flow via the power semiconductor component is made possible, and wherein the power semiconductor components are in the form of thyristors which are connected in opposition and can be triggered optically.

14. (Previously Presented) A surge protector according to claim 13,
wherein the trigger circuit has a capacitive voltage divider, which has a capacitor which can be bridged by means of the power semiconductor components.

15. (Previously Presented) A surge protector according to claim 13,
wherein the trigger circuit is connected to a trigger electrode, whose distance from a first electrode of the spark gap is less than the distance between the first electrode and a second electrode opposite it, it being possible for the electrical potential of the second electrode to be applied to the trigger electrode by means of the trigger circuit.

16. (**Currently Amended**) A surge protector according to claim ~~13~~14,
wherein the spark gap has at least two pairs of mutually opposite electrodes, which are arranged in a series circuit with respect to one another, the capacitor which can be bridged being connected in parallel with a pair of mutually opposite electrodes.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A surge protector according to claim 13,
wherein the spark gap and the trigger circuit are arranged on a platform which is supported in an insulated manner by means of supports and is designed to bear components which are provided for the purpose of improving ~~the~~a power transmission in an energy distribution system.

18. **(NEW)** A surge protector comprising
a spark gap, which has mutually opposite electrodes,
a trigger circuit for triggering the spark gap; and
a light source which is connected to a protective device, at ground potential for generating a trigger light, which can be supplied to a reception unit of the trigger circuit by means of at least one optical waveguide, the spark gap and the trigger circuit being at a high-voltage potential, wherein the reception unit comprises a first light triggered thyristor coupled inversely with a second light triggered thyristor, wherein the first and second thyristor are switched by means of the trigger light from an off position, in which a current flow via the first and second thyristor is interrupted, to an on position, in which a current flow via the first and second thyristor is made possible.